



Administrative Appeals Tribunal

16 August 2023

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

I write to clarify evidence provided at the Budget Estimates 2023-24 hearing of the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee on 4 August 2023.

On page 44 of the Hansard proof, Senator O'Neill asked about the number of existing AAT applications for review of protection visa decisions that were more than three, four and five years old, or an ageing summary. At page 60 of the Hansard proof, I said:

Ms Haddad: As to the average age of the caseload as at 30 June 2023—there were 8,748 cases that were 12 months or less old. For the one- to two-year category there were 8,630. For the two- to three-year category, it was 914. For the three- to four-year category, it was 1,270. For the four- to five-year category, it was 1,615 cases. In the over five-year category, it was 1,967 cases.

I wish to clarify my evidence as, in four instances, the data I provided inadvertently referred to the average age (in days) of cases in the particular age category, rather than the number of cases in that age category. I am clarifying to confirm that the answer to Senator O'Neill's question is set out in the table below, which shows a breakdown by age of the Tribunal's protection caseload as at 30 June 2023:

Age	Number of cases
365 days or less (less than 12 months)	8,748
366 – 730 days (1 to 2 years)	8,630
731 – 1,095 days (2 to 3 years)	7,572
1,096 – 1,460 days (3 to 4 years)	7,071
1,461 – 1,826 days (4 to 5 years)	5,206
1,827 days or more (greater than 5 years)	2,912

On page 44 of the Hansard proof, in response to questions from Senator O'Neill relating to the AAT's protection and migration caseload, I gave the following evidence about migration application numbers:

Ms Haddad: Certainly. That's a slightly different picture, but there was a doubling at one stage. In 2014-15 it was 14,398 applications, and it rose to a peak of 25,809 per year in 2018-19. In 2021-22 it dropped to 10,193; that was during the pandemic period.

I wish to clarify my evidence to confirm that the peak in migration applications occurred in 2017-18, when the AAT received 26,445 applications.

Yours sincerely

Sobet Haddad
Senior Reviewer